

U.S. Members of Congress and Administration officials made regular trips to Kiev with the same message. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, our hopes were crushed when we saw how the 2004 presidential campaign was unfolding.

According to information collected by international and local non-partisan monitoring groups, most of Ukraine's 225 territorial election commissions are controlled by pro-government political forces that are openly supporting the candidacy of the Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. International observers also estimate that the twenty five presidential candidates are not genuine candidates, but are running to place Yanukovich loyalists on the electoral commissions. This practice compromises the independence of the commissions and makes a complete farce out of the Ukrainian election law. State and local Ukrainian officials are controlling and manipulating the media to shut out the main opposition candidate Victor Yushchenko. The state officials are using illegal means to interfere in the election campaign, giving rise to grave concerns regarding the commitment of the Ukrainian Government to free and fair elections.

In fact, our Ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst, most recently publicly stated that Ukraine is not meeting its commitments to conduct fair and transparent elections. I am also concerned by the behind the scenes deal between President Putin and Prime Minister Yanukovich. It is obvious that Mr. Yanukovich is the preferred candidate of Russia, and I wonder how much of the Ukrainian political sovereignty and economic freedom have been ceded to Russia in exchange for its financial support.

I hope that this resolution will send an important message to the Ukrainian electorate and the Ukrainian political elite that the U.S. Congress cares deeply about the future of Ukraine. Ukrainian citizens must have confidence that the legal system will protect their rights and that their political will and their votes will be counted, and the result of the elections will not be manipulated. The United States hopes to sustain a strong and friendly relationship with democratic, sovereign, and prosperous Ukraine. History has shown us that the most enduring alliances are sustained between allies who share the same values and vision. The elections on October 31, 2004 will reveal whether the Ukrainian Government is committed to democracy and the rule of law and whether it is willing to become a full and equal member of the western community of democracies.

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TRIBUTE TO WESLEY AND ELLA  
MAE ROOKS

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wesley and Ella Mae Rooks. They are a very special couple who have given so much to the community they adopted over forty years ago. Wesley came to Gillett, Arkansas, as a math teacher, and Ella Mae found a job in a neighboring town as a secretary. Eventually, Ella Mae was employed as a secretary to the principal at Gillett High School where Wesley was teaching.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way to adequately measure the positive influence Wesley and Ella Mae had on the young people of Gillett in their years at Gillett High School. I personally know from my own children's experience how they valued every child and encouraged them in their class work and in life beyond the classroom. They were demanding of a child's best, expected it, and did so with a large dose of good humor. Young people knew the Rooks were rooting for them to succeed.

Their retirement has given them other outlets to find ways of encouraging others. Whatever need presents itself, they respond.

So on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I take this opportunity to wish Wesley my congratulations on his 80th birthday, and he and Ella Mae are both congratulated on being loved and appreciated by a host of friends and relatives. They are the essence of what makes America great. I am indeed blessed to have them as my friends and neighbors.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOBBY  
JULICH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Bobby Julich, a truly talented athlete from Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Bobby's efforts in the Athens Olympic Games are an inspiration to us all, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous achievements before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Bobby Julich was first motivated to become a competitive cyclist at the age of twelve while watching Aspen's Alexi Grewal win a gold medal in the 1984 Olympic time trials event in Los Angeles. As a student at Glenwood Springs high school, he was an active competitor and was sponsored by many local shops. Now 32, Bobby recently won the bronze medal in the men's road time trial at the Athens Games. His achievement has been recognized by his high-school on its wall of pride.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Bobby Julich for his achievement. Representing his country in the Olympics is a great privilege and he did so nobly. I am proud to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Congratulations on your performance in the Olympic games, Bobby, and I wish you well in all of your future endeavors.

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CONGRATULATING MS. KOKO  
TAYLOR

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate one of my most prestigious constituents, from Country Club Hills, Illinois, Ms. Koko Taylor, the "Queen of the Blues". Ms. Taylor is a recipient of the 2004 National Heritage Fellowship.

The National Heritage Fellowship is the country's highest honor given in the folk and

traditional arts. Ten fellowships and twelve awardees were chosen from 10 states, and we are proud to have Ms. Koko Taylor as this year's award recipient from Illinois.

Ms. Taylor was born 75 years ago in a sharecropper's cabin at the edge of a cotton plantation in southwestern Tennessee. Even though her father encouraged her to perform only Gospel music, Koko and her siblings would sneak out and play the blues on homemade instruments. When she was eighteen, Koko (given that name as a child due to her love of chocolate) moved with her soon-to-be husband Robert "Pop" Taylor to Chicago. Initially sustaining herself as a housekeeper on Chicago's North Shore, it was not long before she was sitting in with legendary blues musicians in Chicago's lively club scene. In 1962, she was discovered by Willie Dixon and signed to a Chess recording contract—Chess Records was the Motown of Chicago. She recorded the million record selling hit "Wang Dang Doodle" in 1965, and had many successful hits since.

For more than 40 years, Koko Taylor's powerhouse vocals have thrilled audiences, from little bars in Chicago's South Side to giant international festivals. She's been in movies, on television, on radio and in print all over the world. Ms. Taylor has received just about every award the blues world has to offer. She has received 19 W.C. Handy Awards, more than any other female blues artist. She has also been nominated for a Grammy for six of her last seven Alligator albums, and won a Grammy in 1984. In 1993, Chicago Mayor Richard A. Daley honored Taylor with a "Legend of the Year Award," and declared "Koko Taylor Day" throughout Chicago. The Blues Foundation bestowed a Lifetime Achievement Award on her in 1999.

Ms. Taylor has been described by Rolling Stone as "the great female blues singer of her generation." Her vocal power and stage presence, drawing on such forbears as Bessie Smith, Sippie Wallace, and Alberta Hunter, has carried her through four decades of recording and live performance, and she continues to play over 100 concerts a year all over the world. Ms. Taylor's contributions to the music world have been enumerable, and I congratulate her on her achievement.

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INTRODUCTION OF A BILL AU-  
THORIZING EXPANSION OF  
HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL  
PARK KAHUKU, HAWAII

**HON. ED CASE**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize expansion of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park located on the Island of Hawai'i.

This bill would authorize expansion of the park's boundaries to allow the National Park Service to acquire 656 additional acres between the 1,000 and 2,000-foot elevation marks in the Kahuku district makai (ocean-side) of State Highway 11. This property, which is a part of the historic Kahuku Ranch, most of which has already been added to the Park, includes extensive natural and cultural resources. These Kahuku lands encompass

the southwest rift zone of Mauna Loa, one of the most massive volcanoes in the world.

The geologic features of the proposed acquisition—three large pit craters—provide vestiges of native forest and other unique attributes. The property also includes ranch buildings, walls, and pasture lands that are reminiscent of nineteenth and early twentieth century ranching and contain remnant ranchlands that are not currently represented to the public by any National Park in Hawai'i. These buildings would provide public, office, educational, and research space for a much-needed satellite headquarters for this portion of the 333,000-acre park. And locating these services in these historic structures will preserve more of the natural resources of the park in an unspoiled condition.

The property also provides magnificent open landscape views and vistas that offer a glimpse into a cultural landscape that has remained unchanged for decades.

The geologic, biologic and cultural resources contained on this property will also enhance the quality of the park for its legislated purpose and as a World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve. In addition, the park has a well-developed partnership with adjacent landowners in management of native ecosystems and historic landscapes and acquisition of this makai section of Kahuku will help to facilitate this partnership.

The Hawaii House of Representatives passed H.R. No. 56 in the 2001 session supporting acquisition of the Kahuku Ranch as part of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and the Hawaii State Senate passed a similar resolution.

I would be very grateful for the support of my colleagues for this important bill. Mahalo!

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO ERNESTO  
TAFOYA**

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to US Navy veteran Ernesto Tafoya. Ernesto, who held the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer, bravely answered our Nation's call to duty during World War II. Following the war, he continued to serve our Nation in the Naval Reserve, retiring in 1983 after forty years of honorable service. I consider it a great honor to recognize the sacrifices Ernesto made for his Nation before this body of Congress today.

Ernesto joined the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the age of seventeen. After months of training he became an engineman on an amphibious landing craft, and was later sent to the Pacific Theater. Ernesto's unit arrived in Hawaii in early 1945, sailed to the Marshall Islands, and eventually arrived at Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. There his unit took part in liberating the Philippines from the Japanese. Following the Philippine campaign, Ernesto was sent to Japan as part of the allied occupation force where he again served honorably. Upon returning from overseas Ernesto continued his service in our Nations Naval Reserve.

Ernesto comes from a family with a long tradition of defending our Nation's freedom. His maternal grandfather Sabino Lopez from

Chihuahua, Mexico, gained his U.S. citizenship by fighting for the Union side in the Civil War. His older brother Dewey served in the European Theater with the US Army during World War II, and was killed during the infamous Battle of the Bulge. In addition, Ernesto's children have followed in their father's footsteps, both his son and his daughter are currently serving as members of our armed forces. His daughter, Michelle Tafoya, has served honorably in the US Air Force for sixteen years, and is today being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Ernesto's son, Carl, served in Vietnam and Desert Storm, and is currently deployed in Kuwait as an Army medivac helicopter pilot.

Mr. Speaker, later today, I will have the distinct honor of recognizing Ernesto for his service during World War II by bestowing upon him the Philippine Liberation Medal. This is a long overdue tribute to the sacrifices Ernesto endured in the defense of freedom. Ernesto, your service is the embodiment of American heroism and we are very proud of you.

**IN HONOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the United States' most reliable allies, the Republic of China, on the occasion of its National Day, October 10. That great nation, better known as Taiwan, has served as a mirror on our times, reflecting the agonies and dreams of the 20th Century and the soaring aspirations of the new century. The ROC was born of the tragedy of Communist betrayal, reared in the tension of the cold war, and reached maturity during the information age.

The ROC was the first casualty of Imperial Japanese aggression and our staunch ally in the fight to free the Pacific of that tyranny. In 1949, Chinese Communists seized power on the mainland and the central government of the Republic of China relocated to Taiwan. Since that time, we have rightfully considered Taiwan's security of vital interest to the United States. In 1950, President Truman ordered the Seventh Fleet to protect Taiwan from attack by the Chinese Communists and we have maintained a presence in the area ever since. Moreover, the Congress has consistently expressed its support of the ROC since the passage of Taiwan Relations Act of 1979.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has developed into a premier Asian democracy, having peacefully evolved from one party rule to the vibrant home of multi-party elections.

Taiwan's political development has been complemented by its economic rise as one of Asia's "Four Tigers," along with Hong Kong, Singapore, and South Korea. Since 1949, the ROC's economy has moved from a leader in agricultural exports, to a major manufacturer of small electronics and consumer goods, to today's premier Asian producer of capital- and technology-intensive commodities, such as personal computers and machinery. Because its economy has achieved such rapid growth, Taiwan boasts one of the world's highest standards of living, with only 1 percent of its population below the poverty line in 2000.

Today, the ROC is an irreplaceable part of the world economy and vital to continued growth here in the U.S.

I know that my colleagues will join me in wishing Taiwan's President Chen Shuibian, its Representative here in the U.S., Dr. David Tawei Lee and the 23 million people of Taiwan a most happy National Day and continued peace and prosperity.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHUCK  
KORNMAN**

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Chuck Kornman, a dedicated humanitarian from Grand Junction, Colorado. Chuck has spent his entire life serving other people during times of desperation, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous leadership and service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Chuck began his professional career as a minister, and after retiring 15 years ago became a volunteer for the Red Cross. This year he will turn 81 years old, and as a family-service coordinator, Chuck travels to disaster sites all over the world to help those affected. He spent 3 months in New York City after the terrorist attacks on September 11 and more recently has aided those afflicted by the floods in Texas, the ice storms in Oklahoma, and the tornado devastated area in southeast Nebraska. Chuck not only interviews victims of natural disasters about their needs, but also provides an unparalleled level of support.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Chuck Kornman for his dedication and commitment to others. In the pinnacle of his life, he serves as an example to all of us. It is with great pleasure that I recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you, Chuck, for everything you have done. I wish you the best in all of your future endeavors.

**HONORING LYNDA THEIL FOR 33  
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 2004*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynda Theil on her retirement from 33 years of public service as a staff member in the House of Representatives. A dedicated staffer, a tireless worker, a sharp mind, and a good friend, Lynda's dedication to working on behalf of our nation's children has been nothing short of inspiring.

Lynda began her career on the Hill working for Ohio Congressman John Seiberling in January of 1971, the beginning of the 92nd Congress. She worked for Rep. Seiberling through the birth of her two daughters, Corbin and Ashley, who she has raised into intelligent, sophisticated and beautiful young women. Upon Rep. Seiberling's retirement, Linda transitioned to the staff for his successor, Congressman Tom Sawyer at the beginning of the 100th